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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/841,008	04/25/2001	Paul Kennedy	033048-019	4932

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EXAMINER

LAFORGIA, CHRISTIAN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/841,008

Applicant(s)

KENNEDY, PAUL



Examiner

Christian La Forgia

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-8 have been presented for examination

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,615,223 to Shih et al., hereinafter Shih.

5. As per claim 3, Shih discloses a master directory structure, having a series of accounts contained within said master directory structure, comprising:

multiple customer accounts subdirectories contained within said master directory structure (Figures 3 and 5; column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 52);

a group of directory nodes contained within said customer account directory sub tree that have access only to other nodes within said customer directory sub tree (column 6, line 53 to column 7, line 58).

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6. Regarding claim 4, Shih teaches wherein said customer directory structures each contain multiple user accounts (column 6, lines 14-52; column 7, line 38 to column 8, line 16).

7. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,589 to Hirashima et al., hereinafter Hirashima.

8. As per claim 5, Hirashima teaches a method for managing multiple customer accounts comprising the steps of :

creating a master directory structure (i.e. supplier directory server) (column 2, lines 5-11; column 2, lines 19-27);

replicating said master directory structure to multiple directory structures accessible by customer servers attached to a computer network (column 2, lines 51).

9. Regarding claim 6, Hirashima discloses wherein said master directory structure is contained within a host data center (i.e. supplier directory server) (column 2, lines 5-27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirashima, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,549 to Aldred et al., hereinafter Aldred.

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12. As per claim 1, Hirashima teaches a system for access authentication within a communications network comprising a host data center in communication with one or more remote data centers, comprising:

a master directory service (i.e. supplier directory server) contained within said host data center, said directory service containing data regarding personnel (column 2, lines 5-11; column 2, lines 19-27);

a directory structure replication hub (i.e. conventional replication server) contained within said host data center, which receives directory structure information from said master directory structure (column 2, lines 5-11; column 2, lines 28-34); and

a plurality of directory structure copies contained within each of said remote data centers (i.e. consumer directory server), accessible by said devices (column 2, lines 5-11; column 2, lines 35-39).

13. Hirashima does not disclose wherein the directory service contains data regarding personnel who are authorized to access devices in the data centers.

14. Aldred discloses using access control lists, hereinafter ACLs, with the lightweight directory access protocol, hereinafter LDAP as described in the cited sections of Hirashima. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include and distribute the ACLs along with the LDAP directory, since Aldred states at column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 6 that such a modification would provide security for the information kept within the LDAP directory.

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15. Claim2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirashima in view of Aldred as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,168 to Bearden et al., hereinafter Bearden.

16. Regarding claim 2, neither Hirashima nor Aldred teach wherein said plurality of copies of said data structure is accessed by way of multiple servers via a load balancer, which balances the load handled by each copy of the directory structure contained within the customer data centers.

17. Bearden discloses the use of a load balancer while accessing an LDAP directory. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a load balancer, since Bearden states at column 5, line 62 to column 6, line 24 that such a modification would ensure a certain level of quality of service.

18. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirashima.

19. With regards to claim 7, Hirashima discloses the master directory structure being replicated by a replication server, and not a replicating hub contained within the host data center.

20. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the replicating hub in the host data center, since it has been held that it only involves routine skill in the art to form in one article that which has been formerly formed in two articles. See § MPEP 2144.04; see *Howard v. Detroit Stove Works*, 150 U.S. 165 (1993); see *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 967, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965); see *In re Wolfe*, 251 F.2d 854, 855, 116 USPQ 443, 444 (CCPA 1958).

21. Regarding claim 8, Hirashima only discloses the use of one remote data center and not many remote data centers.

22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to increase the number of remote data centers, since it has been held that the mere duplication of an essential part of a system involves only routine skill in the art. See § MPEP 2144.04; see *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8; see *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 671, 124 USPQ 378, 380 (CCPA 1960).

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

24. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to distributing access control lists, such as:

United States Patent No. 6,629,132 to Ganguly et al., which is cited to show predicate indexing of data stored in a computer with application to indexing cached data.

United States Patent No. 6,470,332 to Weschler, which is cited to show searching for and retrieving profile attributes based on other target profile attributes and associated profiles.

United States Patent No. 6,308,173 to Glasser et al., which is cited to show controlling resource access in a networked computing environment.

United States Patent No. 6,490,619 to Byrne et al., which is cited to show managing multiple lightweight directory access protocol directory servers.

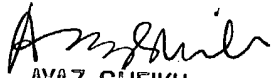
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25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian La Forgia whose telephone number is (703) 305-7704. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7-5.

26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

27. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christian LaForgia
Patent Examiner
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